

Learning to teach

Some are born to teach and others, but not enough, learn how to.

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NOTES THIS YEAR:

- Augustana Merger?
- Construction continues...
- Research funding priority.
- search for the new president.
- Undergrad numbers rise.

Trishina Lobo?

2004 in preview

From a possible merger and degree-granting status for colleges to the search for a new president, it's going to be a busy 12 months.

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\$1 million project

Researchers will chart the culture and history of Métis in Saskatchewan.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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Pool opens after major renovation

Deferred maintenance caught up with aging pool

By Richard Cairney

Last April, the University of Alberta's West Pool was drained so a three or four-month-long renovation project could take place. But as the job progressed, workers uncovered one problem after another and now, 10 months after it was closed, the pool has finally been opened.

"It got ugly," said Dr. Ed Montgomery, director of operations in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. A litany of new problems with the pool spilled onto Montgomery's desk. First, new tiles wouldn't stick to existing ones, so the old tiles needed to be removed. During that process, the pool floor began to crumble. The 40-year-old cast iron drainage system did too. Recirculation lines that skim debris from the surface of the water had to be replaced, so did the pool deck covering those lines. The air recirculation system, running against the walls, was also damaged and needed replacing.

"The original plan was to tile the inside of the basin and the deck – it's a pretty quick job," Montgomery recalled. "We spent the first three months of this job taking one step back at a time. By the time we are finished this, they will have had to redo the lining on the basin and redo the recirculation lines . . . essentially, we now have a new pool."

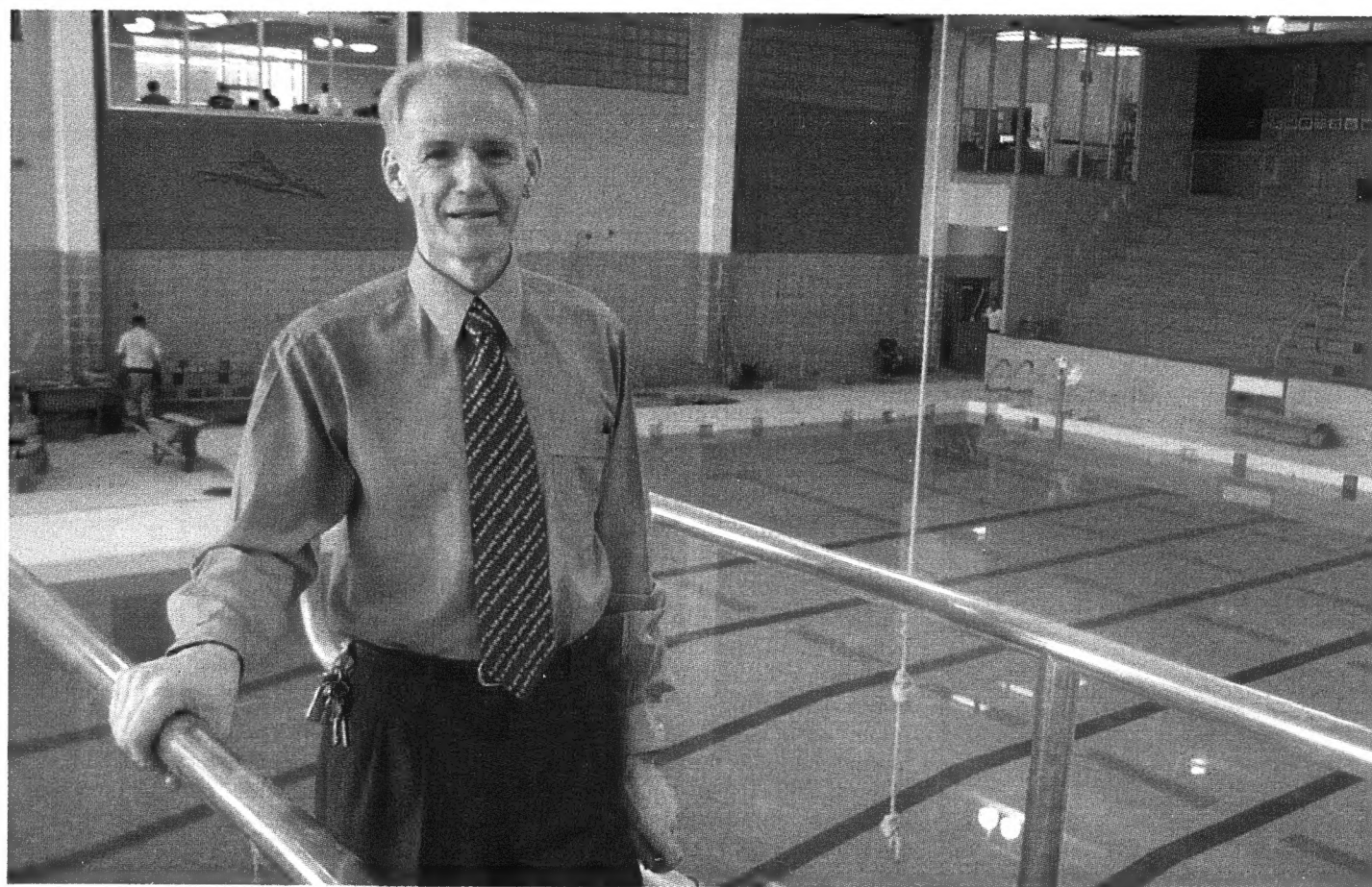
While the pool was opened Jan. 8, some construction was still underway. A new coat of paint and a sound baffling system need to be installed, and some tiling remains to be completed.

Montgomery is pleased with the way the university's facilities management handled the continuing stream of bad news.

"Facilities management recognized what a problem this was and took the initiative to deal with this all right now – there were no band-aid solutions," he said.

Don Hickey, the university's vice-president (facilities and operations), said the project clearly illustrates the perils of deferred maintenance.

"It's an example of what happens when you don't take care of things in a timely fashion," Hickey said. He said that if preventive work had been done as long as 15 years ago, the project's cost wouldn't have spiraled as it did – from



Dr. Ed Montgomery is happy to see the Winslow and Christian Hamilton Memorial Swimming Pool opened after 10 months. Work continues on the pool's periphery.

about \$300,000 to a final price tag of about \$1.3 million.

"Preventive maintenance eventually becomes deferred maintenance and that eventually becomes reconstruction," said Hickey. The U of A has about \$600 million in deferred maintenance work that needs to be addressed, he added.

"The reality is, it has to get to a higher priority on some funding agendas, and I don't mean the university's."

The university receives funding for infrastructure in three-year packages from the provincial government. Hugh Warren, the U of A's associate director of planning and infrastructure, says a new funding package is due this year. Typically, the university receives about \$12.5 million per year for infrastructure renewal. Last year, Warren said, the university received \$12.3 million. Of that amount, \$ 7.4 million was directed to deferred maintenance.

The original repairs at the pool were needed because swimmers were cutting themselves on cracked tiles, Warren said, adding that it isn't uncommon for relatively straightforward repairs to become major projects.

In this case, the university had "some contingency" funds to help cover costs of the pool renovation, said Hickey, but the project's sudden urgency resulted in delays for other work on campus.

"Other projects had to be delayed. I don't know what trade-offs were made, but when you have a building that's shut down, it is high on the priority list," he said.

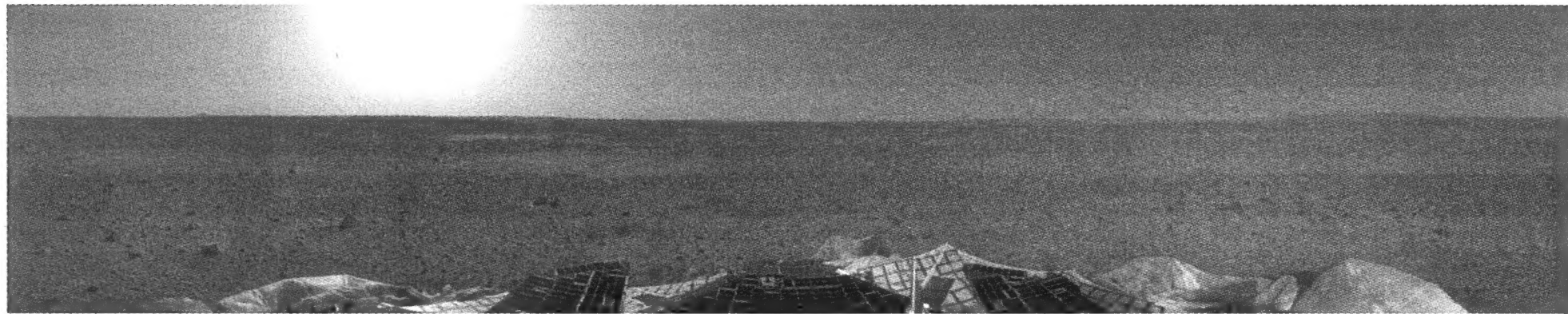
Of course, the pool's closure affected academic and recreational use as well. Education and physical education students use the pool to learn how to teach people to swim, Campus Recreation and student groups use the pool for fitness classes and competitions, and the pool is

available for general public swimming and for rent.

Closure of the pool meant the university's much smaller East Pool was booked solid. The West Pool, formally known as the Winslow and Christian Hamilton Memorial Swimming Pool was opened in May, 1960. It is named after Winslow Hamilton, a former U of A student and staff member, and his wife. The two were killed in a plane crash in 1956. Friends, students and alumni donated funds to help build the pool in their memory.

And while Montgomery is sure Hickey's office doesn't want to hear any complaints about the pool "for another 20 years," he's feeling pensive about the condition of the East Pool.

"It has been going full-time, and the chlorination and filtration systems will need to be addressed in the not-too-distant future." ■



The Spirit rover provided researchers with this panoramic view of Mars Jan. 5.

Researchers keep an eye on Mars missions

Mars landing fuels curiosity

By Bev Betkowski

The successful landing on Mars of a golf cart-sized rover is being closely watched by two University of Alberta researchers.

Dr. Carlos Lange and Dr. Chris Herd, both U of A professors with an interest in the Red Planet, are eager to see what data NASA's Spirit rover discovers as it snaps photos and sends them back to waiting scientists on Earth. It was a feat in itself to have the craft land successfully, said Herd, who teaches in the U of A's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

"The record is abysmal. Two-thirds of missions to Mars have failed. Out of 30 attempts, this is only the fourth that has successfully landed," Herd said. The latest mission prior to Spirit was the Beagle lander, sent up by the European community. It was set to land on Mars Christmas Day

and send back a signal, but that signal was never captured.

From a scientific viewpoint, the accomplishment of Spirit is significant, Herd added. The faraway planet's surface is peppered with rocks that could add to the geological knowledge about Mars, in turn telling researchers more about the planet's surface and its relationship to water.

Lange is also keeping a close eye on the Spirit's mission. The professor in the U of A Department of Mechanical Engineering is involved in the Aerosol Research Laboratory of Alberta, and through that work, plays a role in the 2007 Canada-U.S. Phoenix mission to Mars.

Lange is a member of the Canadian science team for Phoenix. "I will not have

major responsibilities in the mission, but I will have access to the data." Using that information, Lange will use computer simulations to learn more about water patterns that might have once existed on Mars.

"Mars has a large polar ice cap that evaporates. It does not form clouds, but somehow condenses and we want to understand that movement," Lange, whose mainstream research studies the design of medical aerosols like asthma inhalers, was originally invited to study the dust of Mars. That study was eventually dropped due to lack of funding, but his skills and knowledge in heat and fluid dynamics translate well to studying the planet's links to water.

Lange checks NASA's website

daily for updates on the Spirit mission (www.jpl.nasa.gov/mer). "It is partly the enthusiasm we feel with the subject, but then directly related to my research is the fact the mission is working and the instruments will perform as predicted." The Spirit's twin, the Opportunity rover, is expected to land on Mars Jan. 24.

Outside of the scientific community, Herd hopes star-gazers in general are excited about the Spirit and other missions.

"It's a reminder of something about us as humans in wanting to explore and discover. We have explored most of the Earth's land area and we're working on the oceans, but this goes beyond that. There's a lot of excitement because it's a real engineering feat to successfully land this rover." ■

folio

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Space exploration on the menu

Campus group has common research and funding interests

By Bev Betkowski

University of Alberta experts are pooling their talents to further the cause of space exploration.

A handful of researchers mingled at an informal lunch in mid-December when, for the first time, they were able to meet other on-campus experts who have links to space research.

"We held the lunch so these people with similar interests can meet each other," said Dr. Chris Herd, an expert in planetary geology from the U of A Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. "It tends to happen within departments and faculties. It doesn't typically happen to have people from different departments and faculties meeting. This is cross-department and cross-faculty."

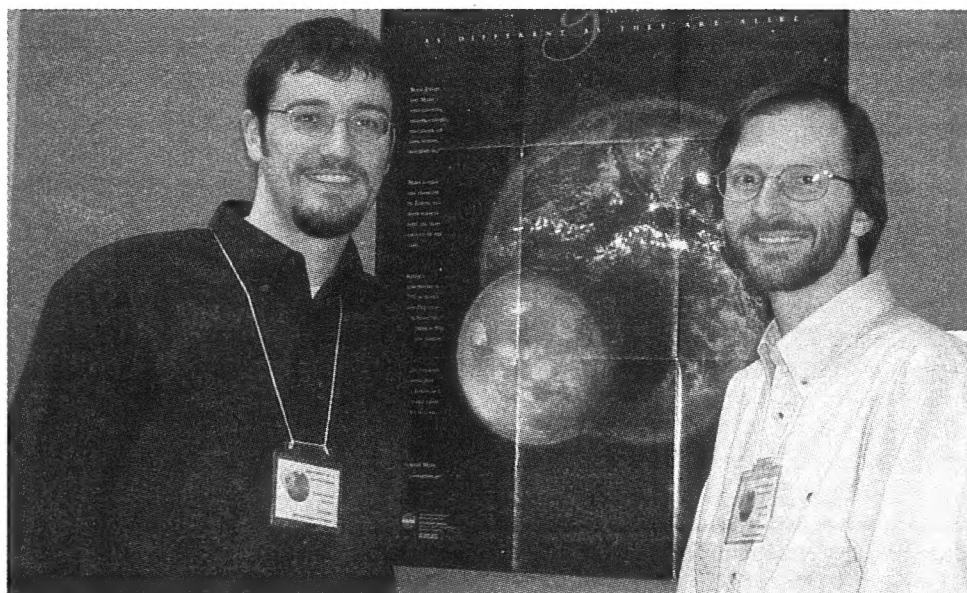
Herd and Dr. Carlos Lange, a professor in the U of A Department of Mechanical Engineering, decided to organize an informal gathering after they met at a fall conference in Lake Louise. Introduced by a mutual colleague, the pair soon discovered they are both excited about the potential of space research, especially Mars. Herd also knew a few other U of A experts with the same interest in space exploration, and he and Lange felt it was a good idea to start a network.

"Across the different disciplines, there's that same kind of excitement and wonder about space exploration that brings us together," Herd said.

Invitations were sent to 10 experts in mechanical engineering, the Cameron Library, earth and atmospheric sciences, physics, and history. Herd hopes to expand that list as word about the group gets out. He wants to compile a contact list and talk about existing areas of expertise.

"That could potentially serve as a resource for the future," he noted. "For example, if you are designing an instrument to go on a spacecraft, to be successful, you need engineering and science."

As well, by joining forces, group members can share information on how to access funding for space research. "It's very hard to get funding," Lange said. "In



Dr. Chris Herd and Dr. Carlos Lange have formed an on-campus network of space scientists.

the U.S., NASA pours out money. Here, we have to scramble for a little bit here and there. We feel weak trying by ourselves. We hope networking gives us a bit of strength."

Herd hopes that the U of A experts will also address the question of existing funding, and how to get more out of it. "With the existing sources of funding we're used to applying to, is it possible to put in a proposal for something that relates to space exploration and have a chance of getting funded?"

"We want to talk about new sources of funding, existing sources, and the attitude behind the funding sources – whether the funding environment is changing such that space exploration-related proposals would get funded," Herd said.

The Canadian Space Agency, one of the main funding bodies for space exploration, is dealing with ongoing budget constraints, so project dollars are tight and competition tough, Herd said. "By bringing together people of diverse interests, there's a lot of activity there that can lead to some interesting ideas that can catch the eye of people in the Canadian Space Agency," he added.

Mars will likely be an ongoing popular topic for the lunch group, as a 2007 mission to the Red Planet will have a Canadian component to it, Herd noted. "The Canadian Space Agency is backing a company in Toronto that will provide some technology for the 2007 Mars Scout Mission," said Herd. Lange, who specializes in aerosol research, will also contribute knowledge to the project.

Lange and Herd invite other interested experts to contact them for more information about the lunch group. E-mail Herd at herd@ualberta.ca or Lange at carlos.lange@ualberta.ca. ■

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University's calendar is full for 2004

From a proposed merger to a fund-raising campaign, the U of A will be a busy place

By Gene Kosowan

With the University of Alberta's 100th anniversary on the horizon, the campus is busy with some necessary ground-work to ensure the institution is going to be on solid ground by the time the centennial streamers are broken out, four years from now.

Facing those tasks that lie ahead, however, is almost like dealing with a hangover before the party has even started.

For openers, the U of A is still trying to balance its goal to preserve its world-class research infrastructure against the costs of maintaining those standards. Handling the latter hasn't been easy, given the increasing energy prices and a sluggish global economy, which has shrunk desperately needed investment income. Faced with these circumstances, in 2002, the Board of Governors opted for a four-year deficit strategy, combining a series of spending cuts with initiatives to maintain levels of research and development on campus.

As the university prepares for year three of that strategy, Board of Governors Chair Jim Edwards warns that the fiscal seas will still be rather choppy.

"We're going to be really challenged this year," said Edwards, who has already seen preliminary cuts planned for the next budget, expected in February.

"It won't be easy, barring any pleasant surprises in strategic investment from the province. We're not getting much of a break from energy costs, we're challenged by many of our own successes in the research field and servicing the overheads of that research. But we're determined to maintain the standards of excellence because if you let those slip, everything else slips with it," he said. "I think the academic excellence of outstanding teaching and the world-class research are two things we have to maintain in the face of budget realities."

Efforts to strike a multi-year tuition agreement with the Students' Union failed late last year, bringing with it speculation that the university will again press for the maximum allowable tuition increase this year, probably as high as six per cent. Students, who continue to grapple with last year's 6.9 per cent hike – bringing tuition up to roughly \$4,310 per student – are preparing to fight against further increases.

The hysteria surrounding any hike, however, will not affect attendance. The Office of the Registrar is predicting almost 35,000 students will pack the classrooms at the U of A in 2004, including roughly 29,000 undergraduates and 5,900 graduates. That's a marginal increase from the 34,367 students currently attending the university, including 28,729 undergraduates and 5,638 graduates.

More than 7,500 students are expected to graduate in convocation ceremonies to be held in June and November.

While convocation activities will mark the end of many students' university experience, this year's reunion ceremonies, slated for Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, will provide alumni an opportunity to rekindle some fond academic memories. Festivities will include an alumni pride awards ceremony, faculty open houses, a gala dinner and dance and a special Sunday president's breakfast for alumni who graduated in 1954 or earlier.

"All the faculties are involved and the event will be campus-wide," said Tracy Salmon, co-ordinator of alumni special events, who is predicting 2,000 former U of A grads will show up.

A recruitment drive has already signed

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- Tuition hike?



up 47 volunteers for the event. The festivities will require 150 volunteers.

Chances are, some people returning for the occasion may not recognize the campus and might be surprised over the increasing presence of hardhats mingling with backpacks, due to the plethora of construction on campus, a trend that will continue for at least the next four years.

Eleven educational and utilities projects in various stages of development are starting to dot the campus landscape, including the Saville Sports Centre and the recently completed expansion of Windsor Car Park.

Projects scheduled for completion this year include East Campus Village, a six-storey, 157-room student housing facility just east of the Faculty of Law building; the Markin/CNRL Natural Resources Engineering Facility; and the Ledcor Clinical Training Centre and Zeidler Family Gastrointestinal Health and Research Centre.

Beyond 2004, other projects slated to spring up on campus include the Agri-Food Discovery Place, the National Institute for Nanotechnology, utilities expansion of the Thermal Energy Storage Tank, the Health Sciences Learning Centre and two phases of the Health Research Innovative Facility.

Construction of these facilities will total more than \$360 million. Not included in that price tag is expansion of the city's Light Rail Transit line, which began in July. The \$108-million project, designed to connect the existing University terminal at HUB Mall with a new station on 114 Street just east of the Jubilee Auditorium, should be completed by 2006.

Changes affecting the university won't be strictly physical, however. This year will mark the first test of the Post-secondary Learning Act, better known as Bill 43, which was passed last year and allows colleges and technical students to provide degree programs for students.

Before the bill was passed by the

Alberta government, former university Provost and Vice President (Academic) Dr. Doug O'ram seemed unconcerned that the bill would attract students to degree programs offered by other institutions in the province.

"One strength of a Canadian education is that we have a kind of bottom line to a Canadian degree," said Dr. O'ram to Folio last June. "We have to ensure that people have confidence that every degree coming out of Alberta meets that standard and has recognizable strength."

While administrators sit back and wait to see how the effects of the bill will manifest themselves among students across the province, they may also find out whether the legal wheels will be set in motion to merge with Camrose-based Augustana University College. In November, the two institutions, with support from Alberta Learning, signed a letter of intent to amalgamate. If the merger goes through, the university will offer rural Albertans a wider scope of academic amenities previously unavailable at Augustana, which currently provides its 1,000 students a range of liberal and sciences educational services.

In turn, Augustana will be able to wipe out a massive debt that has accumulated in recent years. The letter of intent was signed on condition that the college's financial burden will be removed, additional funding support will be provided to Augustana and that the amalgamation will not have to absorb the financial liabilities incurred by the college. Augustana, which has provided a Lutheran-based education since 1910, also requested that its religious heritage be preserved.

So far, the proceedings have not progressed beyond the November signing, although the legal transfer could begin April 1, pending approval of the U of A Board of Governors and the province's funding committee.

In athletics, the Pandas and Golden Bears teams continue to hold promise. Both men's and women's hockey teams are in top form, and the women's rugby squad will train its sights on its sixth straight national championship.

Later this year, the university will announce the launch of a campaign focused on raising funds for capital projects, student support and academic excellence. Scheduled to end in time for the university's centennial celebrations in 2008, the campaign will differ from a previous five-year initiative that ended in 2000. Unlike the previous drive, which targeted corporate donors, the campaign will be asking individual patrons for financial assistance.

"This campaign will build on the support of the last campaign," said Susan Green, vice president of external affairs at the U of A. "Our core is excellence in teaching and research and we need to continue to provide moneys from donors to support that."

Green anticipates the drive, which will announce its financial goal this summer, will be able to leverage the hype surrounding Edmonton's centennial festivities this year and Alberta's centennial anniversary in 2005.

"Hopefully, it will be an opportunity to say what a fabulous opportunity to make a lasting gift to the university by helping to celebrate its centennial," said Green.

With four years left before the occasion, expect the university to continue its plans to ensure its 100th anniversary is celebrated – in the black. ■

The Fraser factor

University begins search for new president

This year will mark the beginning of University of Alberta President Dr. Rod Fraser's final term in office. Fraser, who has occupied the position since his appointment in 1995, announced in December that he won't seek a third term and has recommended that the university begin the process to find a successor.

Jim Edwards, chair of the U of A Board of Governors, says Dr. Fraser's replacement will inherit a very large pair of shoes to fill.

"The board will, as part of the search process, be defining the nature of the president that we'll be searching for," said Edwards.

"But it's very clear that with Rod's record of success, the new individual will be building on that foundation."

Edwards said that the selection committee will definitely be searching for the same qualities that landed Fraser the job nearly a decade ago. The successful candidate will need strong academic credentials, an exceedingly high energy level, and all the virtues associated with a chief executive position, from the ability to retain a great deal of focus on the tasks at hand to setting a leadership example.

"That person needs to reach out into the community and be seen to be serving the community and its needs," said Edwards. "That was one of the major definitions of our founding president, H.M. Tory."

Tory, the university's first president, took office in 1908 and held the position for 21 years. The next president could very well still be in office by the time the university celebrates its centennial four years from now.

According to Fran Trehearne, senior adviser in the president's office, no candidates have offered to throw their hats into the ring to succeed Fraser, who leaves his post June 30, 2005.

"The fact of the matter is you get very few people who actually apply," said Trehearne, adding that a search committee, to be established this year, will more likely approach potential applicants to consider running for the position.

The search committee will consist of 16 members, representing all facets of the university, including academic staff, non-academic support staff and members of the Graduate Students' Association and the Students' Union.

"It's really a complicated process," said Trehearne. "The committee will largely determine its procedures and the board will set any guidelines regarding salary and benefits that the committee can work with."

The search committee will recommend at least two nominees to the Board of Governors chair, vice chair and the chair of the finance committee, who will interview the candidates. After assessing the interview results, the three will pass their findings onto the board, which will make the final decision. ■

Dr. Cook and Father Foley: a parallel on good teaching

Teaching appears to take a back seat, despite valuable resources

By Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika

Recently, Dr. Paul Boothe wrote a piercing article on the University of Alberta's poor ratings in a nation-wide survey of undergraduate programs in Canada (A wake-up call for the University of Alberta, Folio, Nov. 7, 2003). Such surveys, in my view, are warning signals about a problem that calls for serious intervention.

I certainly agree with Dr. Boothe on a number of his recommendations. But, I also feel that a good chunk of the problem has to do with our under-use of available resources, which is not unconnected with the lack of motivation. Why would faculty members be motivated to do something that holds little or no reward (or penalty) for them? The few faculty members who are winning awards to our glory are only minimally appreciated, their expertise shunned by many faculty who could borrow a leaf or two.

We all know that good teaching is not a huge priority in the race to obtain a doctoral degree. Good teaching comes with years of experience nurtured by expert advice. The quality of classroom experience can be greatly improved by a humility and determination to learn from those who can teach us a thing or two. Those who make the effort to attend workshops organized by Universities Teaching Services know Dr. David Cook. He stands out for me, perhaps, because he reminds me so much of a wonderful mentor from the past, Father Foley.

Father Foley was my prelim Chemistry lab instructor at the University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria, where I obtained my first degree. One of the founding fathers of UI in 1948, Father Foley came to Nigeria as a young Irish priest. In fact, many of the science instructors and big-time professors at UI were former students he knew as young 'lads' in his lab. By the time my prelim class met Father Foley in the fall of 1979, he was well past retirement age – and still going. He was simply known as Father Foley. Everybody felt at home in his domain, the Chemistry lab. He divided the prelim class of over 1,000 students into four groups: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday sessions. He had a number of assistants, but unquestionably ruled his lab. His eyes seemed to rove through the rows of lab stools with the titration equipment before each student. To him, every student was 'sister' or 'brother.' And the response was always, a loud "Father." As a young prelim lad, you felt as if his eyes were always on your back because he had this manner of quietly stealing up behind you to whisper one of his usual 'ginger' expressions, "Brother, did you spend most of last night at Mokola? This is the Chemistry lab, remember!" Mokola was a part of the city known for its bustling air of prostitution, alcohol and crime. You wouldn't know when Father Foley would catch you unawares, as you struggled to

adjust your titration glass and he shouts, "Sister, did you drink kai kai before you came to lab? Keep your hands steady!" Kai kai, a locally brewed gin, was declared illegal for its high alcohol 'voltage' but readily available within the cities. In lab sessions, Father Foley chattered and bantered with students as an instructor, buddy, big brother and grandfather.

Father Foley was at home with the locals, their language and customs. Instead of a priestly robe, he wore the typical Nigerian tie and dye, the local cotton fabric dyed in the usual assortment of colors.

Dr. Cook reminds me of Father Foley in a different time and space. The ease with which Dr. Cook delivers what are, I am sure, carefully thought out and organized workshops for the UofA's Teaching Services, amazes me. There is always a significant turnout when Dr. Cook is 'in session.' He brings to every workshop a certain familiarity with his audience that makes you feel you have known him for a long time. He has a humble spirit that conveys his own appreciation of each person's attendance as both learner and instructor. Despite his depth of experience, reflected in the stream of accolades which line his office wall, Dr. Cook comes across as a pal, challenging his colleagues to do better. The more I attend Dr. Cook's workshops the more I lament the under-appreciation and, not surprisingly, under-use of such a valu-

Why would instructors worry, since teaching certainly takes a back seat to the race for research dollars? In the struggle to publish (or perish), what would motivate faculty members to reach beyond the mediocre goal?

able resource by faculty members. I often find myself drawing the Dr. Cook - Father Foley parallel every time I leave Dr. Cook's workshop.

I am not sure what the reactions of faculty members, individually and in groups, have been to Dr. Boothe's article, but for me, I worry things will go on as usual. Why would instructors worry, since teaching certainly takes a back seat to the race for research dollars? In the struggle to publish (or perish), what would motivate faculty members to reach beyond the mediocre goal? And where recognition is seldom and penalties far from harsh, why would anyone go out of their way to change things? Besides the personal satisfaction, spiked perhaps by student appreciation, what indeed would motivate us further? ■

(Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika is an associate professor in the University of Alberta's Women's Studies Program.)

We are all here now

Native Studies course encompasses past and present

By Dr. Ellen Bielawski

Welcome to the "Moon of Popping Trees." People often describe winter cold as silent, but I favour the Northern Cheyenne name for the first moon after the winter solstice. If it is cold enough, ice creaks and snaps. Tree sap pops.

I'm writing this on a warm December day with exactly one second more daylight than yesterday. No matter what time-measuring calendar my computer displays, I follow the rhythm of the solstices and equinoxes as Earth takes another journey around the sun.

During the short, dark days of December, two of us worked late at the University of Alberta School of Native Studies, then left together. Administrative Assistant Bev Findlay has worked for the school all of its 15 years. I'd been director for less than five months. As Bev closed the locked door behind us one night, she exclaimed "Oh, no!" Graffiti was sprawled across a poster for the school's new course for non-majors, Aboriginal Canada: Looking Forward/Looking Back. Someone had inked over the course title and written: 'This only furthers stereotypes of us! But what could we expect from a school of NS run by non-natives?'

I knew before taking this job that

encountering systemic racism and stereotypes would be part of it. But I choose to work on this edge between communities, cultures, societies or just plain people. I choose it because the edge between cultures is a place of turmoil, risk, richness and creativity, like the ice floe edge where Inuit camp for the best hunting.

Just as the anonymous scrawl obscured the type on the poster, stereotypes and systemic racism obscure the relationship between Aboriginal people and others. In North America--the continent many Aboriginal people call Turtle Island--this relationship has grown more complex every single day of the past 500-plus years.

The School of Native Studies, and other such academic programs across Canada and around the world, exist in order to examine and explore this relationship. The school's distinction rests on research and teaching about the contemporary society that includes all of us who inherit the prehistory and history of Canada. The school teaches, researches, graduates and employs non-Aboriginals side-by-side with Aboriginal people. We work together – not only towards a distant goal of equity between Aboriginal people and others – but creating and living that equity every day.

The school has both composition and responsibility that set it apart from other U of A faculties. The Constitution of Canada recognizes the "special status" of Aboriginal people – First Nations, Métis and Inuit – within Canada. The School of Native Studies recognizes that the relationship between Aboriginal people and others is unique as a discipline of study. Wisely, the founders of the school at the U of A established a unique entity for the discipline.

Does this matter in our contemporary

world, in our day-to-day lives? Do you consume electricity in Edmonton? Do you pay taxes? Do you ever walk, bike, rollerblade or paddle in the river valley? Do you own a diamond? All of these actions integrate Aboriginal issues, right here, right now.

Aboriginal Canada is all of Canada. Perhaps we should name our new course "Nation within a Nation: What Everyone Needs to Know About Our Home and Native Land". (Many Aboriginal people sing "our home on Native land" when rendering the national anthem.) I often think the Indigo Girls sing it best: "I used to search for reservations and Native lands, before I realized, everywhere I stand there have been tribal feet..."

We are all here now. That is why the School of Native Studies exists. The questions that history has left for us to answer are not academic. They are active, daily questions. We – all of us inheritors – make choices about them every day.

I started teaching the Aboriginal Canada course on Jan. 5. By design, every

one of our multidisciplinary, multiracial, multicultural faculty will teach parts of the course, along with Elders, graduates of the School of Native Studies, professors from other faculties, and persons with real-life lessons to offer, as well as academic credentials.

During the Moon of Popping Trees, light returns slowly. Earth can be very cold. The work we do is hard. It seems interminable, and the problems in human relationships appear intractable. But by Maple Sugar Moon (every Canadian, indigenous or immigrant, learns that maple sap runs in March) the light will pour over us daily.

I have a similar hope for the 37 students enrolled in Aboriginal Canada. I hope they will never see the relationship between Aboriginal people and others in a simple 'red' or 'Métis brown' or 'white' stereotypical way again, no matter what paths they follow in their future. ■

(Dr. Ellen Bielawski is director of the University of Alberta's School of Native Studies.)

folio letters to the editor

Folio welcomes letters to the editor. Send your thoughts and opinions via e-mail to richard.cairney@ualberta.ca, fax at 492-2997, or by mail to Folio, Office of Public Affairs, 6th Floor General Services Building, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1. Letters may be edited for grammar, style, accuracy and length.

Cardiologist named Researcher of the Year

Stephen Archer earns respect of peers

By Richard Cairney

A University of Alberta cardiologist who discovered that Viagra serves as an effective treatment for a serious heart-lung condition has been named Researcher of the Year by the Capital Health Authority.

Dr. Stephen Archer, a clinician-investigator and professor of medicine and physiology at the U of A, was part of a team that discovered Viagra, commonly used to treat erectile dysfunction, can effectively treat primary pulmonary hypertension, a life-threatening disease.

Archer and his research team, led by Dr. Evangelos Michelakis, had been studying Type 5 phosphodiesterase inhibitors, the same category of drug as Viagra, when the high-profile drug first went to market.

"It is mostly used for sex and there is all sorts of locker room humour about it so people didn't look at its basic mechanism," said Archer. "But we were studying that kind of drug a long time ago, in animals."

The discovery of Viagra's use in treating primary pulmonary hypertension has had an immediate and profound impact on patients, said Dr. Marie Hurlburt, president of the Capital Region Medical Staff Association.

"We are looking to honour researchers in the region and in particular researchers whose work translates to significant changes for patients in the clinical area and at the bedside," she said. "Dr. Archer, with his work on primary pulmonary hypertension, has made a terrific difference in the well-being and life-span of people with pulmonary hypertension, many of whom

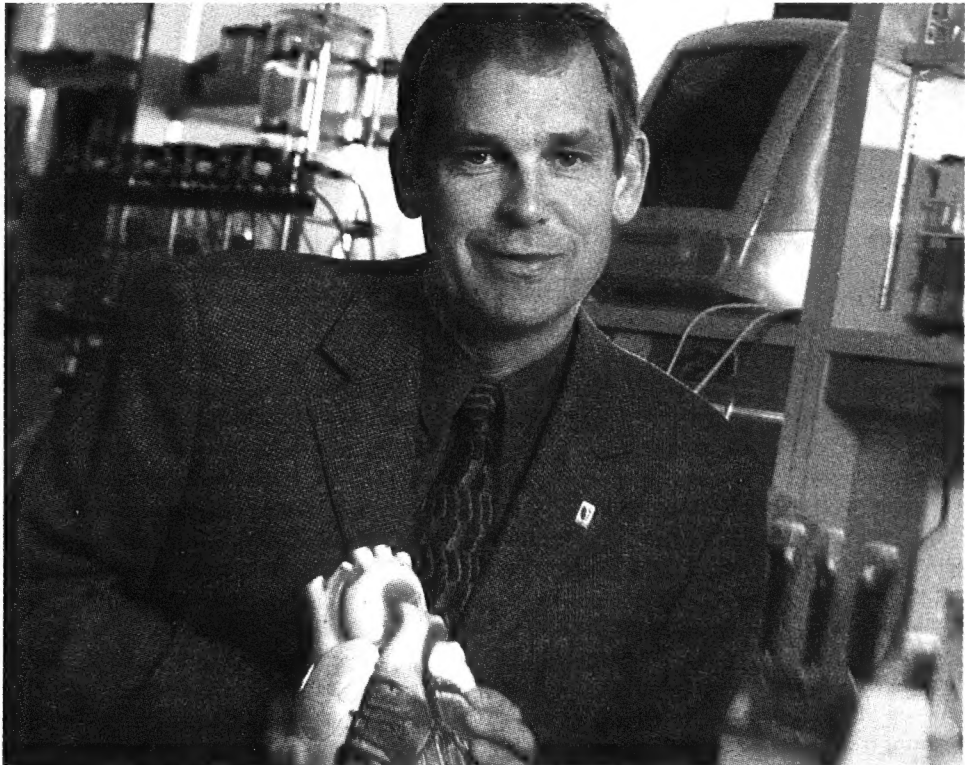


Photo Courtesy AHFMR

Dr. Stephen Archer has been named Researcher of the year by the Capital Health Authority.

are young women."

The disease is a condition in which blood pressure in the pulmonary artery rises far above normal levels as a side effect of diet pills, because of congenital heart disease or, in some cases, for no reason at all. It is most common among young women, in their twenties and thirties.

The trouble with previous treatments is that they cost between \$60,000 and

\$100,000 per patient, per year. In many cases, patients receive intravenous treatments virtually around the clock.

Archer said the local research team's achievement leverages work done by others. "It's a drug that was already being made, and made safely, and that helped us jump from the bench to the bedside. We recognized immediately that this could be a good treatment."

The only side effects associated with the treatment, he said, are headaches and problems with vision.

Dr. Tom Marrie, chair of the Department of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, said Archer is deserving of the award.

"He is an outstanding researcher, an extremely good teacher and an accomplished physician," Marrie said. "He is a really good doctor. What he does he does extremely well, and I can attest to that because he looked after me this year."

Archer has also drawn a significant amount of research funding to the U of A, Marrie said. He has earned \$20 million in Canada Foundation for Innovation funds and last year earned a grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health—an achievement that is rare for scientists who do not have an American co-researcher.

He has also earned his share of awards. He won teacher of the year awards at the University of Minnesota twice and was the recipient of the Department of Medicine's Paul Armstrong Research Achievement Prize for 2002. But the Capital Region award, which comes from his peers, has special meaning.

"It's obviously nice to get awards outside of Edmonton but it is really gratifying and heartwarming to get awards from your own peers," said Archer. "The people who know you best know your strengths and weaknesses and if, knowing those weaknesses, they are still willing to acknowledge you, it is quite an accomplishment." ■

University mourns Decoteau

Scholarship established in Flo Decoteau's memory

Flora Decoteau loved poetry, literature, music and movies. She was a talented poet and writer of short stories. She enjoyed cooking, doing The Guardian crossword puzzle, shopping for clothes, and listening to CBC – and, she loved to laugh. Flo took great pride in her children and in her nephew. Her roles as mother, wife and aunt were at the centre of her life.

In 1973, Flora (Flo) graduated with distinction from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.A. (Advanced). She moved to Edmonton and began her career with the University of Alberta Registrar's Office as a student records processing clerk. From 1974 - 1976, she completed course work toward an M.A. in English Literature, winning both a Province of Alberta Graduate Scholarship and the Frank Bessai Memorial Prize in Old English. In 1976, Flo

returned to work in the Registrar's Office as senior co-ordinator.

In July 1981, Flo was named Registrar of Grant MacEwan Community College. During her time at the college, she also served as an English instructor. She left the college in 1989 to be a full-time mom and raise her children. She will be remembered as a talented administrator and an inspiring teacher. The college has funded a bursary in Flo's name, and the English Department of the college has established the Flora Decoteau Creative Writing Award.

Flo returned to work at the University of Alberta in 1996 as assistant registrar, administrative services. She completed her career as associate registrar and director of records. Her colleagues remember her attention to detail, her dedication to her work, and her compassion. Through her work, she made

life better for students. The Office of the Registrar and Student Awards has established the Flora Decoteau Undergraduate Scholarship as an ongoing tribute to Flo's dedication and service and her outstanding contributions to the Registrar's Office and to the University of Alberta.

Flo passed away Dec. 14. She is survived by her husband, Gerry Hoyer, and their three sons, Stuart, Alexander and Patrick; sister Betty (Walter) Schoenhofer, and nephew Colin (Sandi) Schoenhofer. She will be missed profoundly. Anyone wishing to make a donation in Flo's memory may do so at:

The Alberta Cancer Foundation (Cross Cancer Institute), The Grant MacEwan College Foundation, (cheques payable to Grant MacEwan College Foundation indicating the Flora Decoteau Memorial Bursary or the Flora Decoteau Creative



Flo Decoteau

Writing Award); or to the U of A Office of Student Awards, (cheques payable to the University of Alberta, indicating the Flora Decoteau Undergraduate Scholarship). ■

folio letters to the editor

Doesn't anyone want to go to Mexico for under \$200?

Editor, Folio:

Like most University of Alberta staff members, I shuffled back into work on Monday, shivering in the cold, fighting for my spot on the LRT amongst the returning students. The bright spot in my post-holiday freeze was the thought that only five weeks from now I'd be wearing shorts instead of ski pants and sunblock instead of a balaclava.

My dreams of warmer days didn't last the morning.

In December I had applied, along with four other people, to participate in the U of A International's Spanish Language and Cultural Studies Training course in Guadalajara, Mexico over Reading Week. Sadly, the minimum number of partici-

pants needed for the course to run is 10. Cancellation is immanent.

So here I sit, hands wrapped around a hot cup of tea instead of a tequila, avoiding the - 30 C windchill instead of enjoying the 30 C sun and wondering why more people like me aren't taking advantage of the golden opportunity that lays out in front of us.

Imagine it...a full week in Mexico JUST for U of A faculty, staff, alumni and their families. According to www.weather.ca, Tuesday's weather was 25 C and overcast but felt like 33 in neighboring Puerto Vallarta. Learn some Spanish (a two-hour language class each day) and expose yourself to Mexican identity, political systems, ballet, literature, history and, well, tequila.

I admit, I'm a sucker for an educa-

tional holiday, but I'm also aware of the University of Alberta's links with Mexico. In my faculty alone, we have no less than six separate agreements with Mexico ranging from undergraduate exchanges, to joint funding of Mexican PhD students, to sharing our expertise in sustainable forest and land management with the Mexican government. Do we not help ourselves by understanding our partners?

We are fortunate enough to work for an employer that offers some of the best benefits in the province. A generous APO travel fund almost entirely covers the cost of the flight from Edmonton to Guadalajara (about \$1,000) and an equally generous professional expense allowance essentially covers the tuition of \$1,400. That tuition,

incidentally, also includes two meals per day, accommodation at Tec de Monterrey University in Guadalajara and entrance fees and transportation to all the field trips. The program was even organized to coincide with Reading Week (February 14-21).

Livia Castellanos, the co-ordinator of the program, tells me they can only wait until January 14 to see if five more people will apply (submit your application and a \$100 application fee to Livia at U of A International, #1204 College Plaza). E-mail her at livia.castellanos@ualberta.ca for more information.

Cynthia Strawson,
Communications Director,
Agriculture, Forestry, and Home
Economics

Bighorn sheep suffering decline of the biggest

Researcher uncovers genetic impact of hunting

By Phoebe Dey

Trophy hunters are driving down the horn size of bighorn sheep – an evolutionary response caused by killing the largest rams before they reach their breeding peak, according to research produced in part at the University of Alberta.

For big game hunters, the most desirable rams are those with large horns and high body weight. But by killing those rams before they are able to achieve high rates of paternity, hunters have depleted genes for big horns and fast growth. Scientists have noticed similar results with fish, but this research marks the first time investigators have discovered this type of impact in bighorn sheep. The research appeared in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*, in December.

"Because you don't have the best rams mating, they aren't reproducing and the population isn't seeing the best genetic variability," said Dr. Curtis Strobek of the Faculty of Science at the University of Alberta, one of the paper's authors. The lead author, Dr. David Coltman, did much of the DNA fingerprinting as a post-doctoral fellow in Strobek's lab. Currently at England's University of Sheffield, Coltman returns to the U of A in July as a researcher.

Coltman's team studied 30 years of data from a harvest sheep population at Ram Mountain, Alberta. Fifty-seven rams were shot since 1975, most before reaching eight years of age. Nine were shot as early as age four. Mating success increases in bighorn sheep by six years of age, when rams become capable of holding their own against females during the rut. The scientists used quantitative genetic analyses to explore the evolutionary response to hunter selection on ram weight and horn size.

"Unrestricted harvesting of trophy rams has contributed to a decline in the very traits that determine trophy quality," wrote the researchers. Wildlife managers should look at alternative strategies "to minimize further deterioration of the genetic quality of bighorn sheep."

A world-class trophy ram is a valuable commodity and hunting permits have been auctioned for hundreds of thousands dollars. One sport hunter paid more than \$1 million in 1998 and 1999 for special permits to hunt trophy rams in Alberta. In many parts of North America, sport harvest of mountain sheep is often restricted only by the availability of rams whose horns reach a minimum size prescribed by regulations,



Trophy hunting has been draining the genetic pool for bighorn sheep.

the researchers noted.

Although the use of income generated from sport hunting goes towards enhancing and conserving mountain habitat for its hoof-bearing residents, so far little

attention has been paid to the potential evolutionary consequences. A similar effect may be impacting African elephants where tuskless males are becoming more common, the *Nature* report noted. ■

Rural radio show puts U of A on the airwaves

Program brings research to rural listeners

By Bev Betkowski

For 90 seconds each weekday, the countrified and the curious can tune into AM 1440 in Edmonton to learn about the University of Alberta's harvest of knowledge for the community.

Along The Fenceline, a bite-sized radio show that runs at 12:25 p.m. weekdays on several Alberta stations, is coming up to its first successful year on the air, and the benefits reaped from a unique partnership are bountiful.

"The whole spirit of the show is to break down the ivory tower image of the university within rural Alberta. There's often a disconnect with what we're doing in academics with what's actually happening in everyday life," said Cynthia Strawson, communications director for the U of A Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics.

Along The Fenceline is the result of a collaboration between the faculty and the Alberta Radio Group, a network of radio stations strung across rural Alberta. The show, which features an expert opinion from the U of A on everyday issues relevant to listeners, helps make a practical connection between the university and what's happening not only on the farm, but in urban life too.

"Everything you could imagine, we have an expert who can comment on it," said Strawson. "What we're doing in our faculty is meant to be applied to everyday life."

Strawson, who grew up on a beef farm in the Niton Junction area west of Edmonton, discovered a natural public relations niche for the faculty as she chatted one day with a representative from the Alberta Radio Group. She discovered that they wanted programming about rural-focused research and knew what to do: "They were revamping their lineup and wanted a connection with the university."

Various experts within the faculty are interviewed on issues ranging from the cancer-fighting qualities of cow's milk to care networks for rural seniors, to the economic impact of drought. The clips air each Monday to Friday on 11 Alberta radio stations from the city of Edmonton as well as from Blairmore, Brooks, Drumheller, High Prairie, Wainwright, Westlock, St. Paul, Athabasca, Wetaskiwin and Stettler.



Cynthia Strawson co-ordinated a program that gets the U of A on the radio in rural Alberta every weekday.

"It's a wonderful partnership because it is a non-threatening kind of reporting," said Strawson. "Our point is to share the information we have with Alberta."

Along The Fenceline, which is slipped in during the network's hour-long Agritalk program from 12 noon to 1 p.m., has a broadcast capacity of up to 500,000 listeners. It brings up-to-the-minute information from U of A researchers to the farmers who need it, said Kendall Olson, writer and host of the 90-second clip. "Farmers by nature are innovative indi-

viduals. They're very inventive and these days very much cutting-edge, so exposure to this research

"Farmers by nature are innovative

individuals. They're very inventive

and these days very much cutting-

edge, so exposure to this research

that is coming up could prove useful

to them in the future."

— Kendall Olson

interests at the forefront of our thinking." Each day, *Along The Fenceline* is fol-

lowed by a 30-second clip advertising the U of A in some way. Strawson has so far developed eight different ads, and the best part is, the entire arrangement is cost-free. Yet the equivalent ad value in air time – from the show's start date on March 3 until the end of 2003 was estimated at \$393,130, she said.

The show is one way for the faculty to stay in touch with the taxpayers of Alberta who support it, said the faculty's Dean, Dr. Ian Morrison. "It's an extension vehicle we can use to remind people throughout the province that we are the University of Alberta and we put their interests at the forefront of our thinking."

Each day, *Along The Fenceline* is fol-

lowed by a 30-second clip advertising the U of A in some way. Strawson has so far developed eight different ads, and the best part is, the entire arrangement is cost-free. Yet the equivalent ad value in air time – from the show's start date on March 3 until the end of 2003 was estimated at \$393,130, she said.

The program also raises community awareness about the importance and purpose of the faculty and of the U of A, Strawson noted. "For instance, there's a drastic shortage of agronomists and professional foresters. If we can increase the number of students in agriculture and forestry by making it more real, that's a wonderful benefit for the whole world, potentially." ■

\$1 million to chart Métis history

School of Native Studies will document Métis land use

By Bev Betkowski

A University of Alberta researcher helping Saskatchewan's Métis chart their history and, consequently, their future has been awarded a \$1-million grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Dr. Frank Tough and the U of A's School of Native Studies will receive a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant to work towards addressing cultural, social and land-use concerns of the Métis in northwest Saskatchewan. The allotment is part of \$6 million being distributed by SSHRC to fund six Aboriginal community-based projects in Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Quebec to promote and improve the sustainability of those communities.

"Their rights are poorly understood, by the mainstream" Tough said.

Involved in Native Studies for 20 years, Tough said he hopes the land-use and occupancy mapping project supported by the grant will create a roadmap of sorts for the Métis' future economic, cultural and social well-being.

"We have the start of some serious resources to document and better understand their rights and interests," he said. "Given the Supreme Court of Canada's recent and clear recognition of Métis Aboriginal Rights, this award is also timely in terms of the public interest."

The project, supported by the grant over five years, will focus on archival, community and policy issues. The U of A, along with the University of Saskatchewan, will partner with the Métis community in northwestern Saskatchewan to glean and record the knowledge of elders and other residents. The partners will document traditional Métis land use patterns through interviews and map biographies. A cartographic-history of the region, along with the data from the traditional land use studies, will be compiled and presented in the



Dr. Frank Tough, graduate student Leanna Parker and Dr. Naomi Krogman are part of a \$1-million Community-University Research Alliance project to study cultural, social and land-use concerns of the Métis in northwest Saskatchewan.

form of a regional atlas.

The involvement of geographers, rural sociologists and renewable resources experts will assess the impact of natural resource policies on the Métis in the region, which covers about one-sixth of the province and encompasses 19 northern Métis communities.

The project got off to a slow start three years ago, when an application for a CURA grant was turned down. Undeterred, the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Council went ahead on its own, with the U of A playing a peripheral role. But the new grant changes everything, said Kathy Hodgson-Smith, a research director who did the traditional land-use study for the council.

"It will now become a co-ordinated long-term approach," she said. As a Métis woman, Hodgson-Smith is excited about the U of A and the Métis working together. "The university will be looking at questions that arise out of the community issues in terms of economic, social and cultural policy development. What is exciting is what we will do together, and we will benefit both ways."

Universities often want to work with Métis communities on research projects, but usually those communities don't have the resources to contribute, she noted. "The Aboriginal community gets bombarded with a university coming in."

However, the U of A has been working with the Métis community for several

years, said Hodgson-Smith, gradually building up to a successful partnership like this one. Several U of A experts are collaborating on the project, including Dr. Naomi Krogman, a professor in the Department of Rural Economy. Krogman helped design the policy component of the study, which will gather information on Métis land-use priorities.

"It's a way to be more informed about what they do care about, so they can negotiate better with the province over resource development," she said.

The CURA grant affirms the valuable role the U of A's School of Native Studies plays in conducting unique, grassroots research, said director Dr. Ellen Bielawski. "It's been a long haul for SSHRC to recognize the sort of research we do, that rests on working within a community. That kind of work is much more costly in time and money than doing the more mainstream research that universities usually do. CURA grants are a recognition that a lot of knowledge resides outside the university as well as inside."

The grant will also allow for undergraduates to get involved in the research. Tough expects a specialized course in applied archival research will be developed for students, and he wants to develop an atlas of the region under study. "Canada has more geography than history, and an atlas is a good way to make information available to a variety of users."

The grant allows for a valuable, ground-breaking partnership with balance for everyone involved, said Hodgson-Smith. "Government projects wash through a community like a tide. What CURA allows us to do is wash through our community and leave infrastructure, capacity and benefits. If we can accomplish that, we can accomplish more than government programs have accomplished in the North for 100 years." ■

Albertans say democracy is ailing

Survey finds common concern with governance

By Geoff McMaster

Only 40 per cent of Albertans think democracy is alive and well in the province, according to a survey conducted by the University of Alberta's Parkland Institute.

In a random telephone survey carried out last year, respondents were asked to rate the health of a number of Alberta institutions on a scale of one to five (very unhealthy to very healthy). While 66 per cent said the economy was either healthy or very healthy, the state of democracy, the environment, education and health care did not fare nearly as well.

"When political scientists look for reasons for political discontent, one of the first things they usually look for is how the economy is going," said Parkland's research director Trevor Harrison, one of three authors of a study released Dec. 8, called *Trouble in Paradise: Citizens' Views on Democracy in Alberta*. "The striking thing in these results, however, is that there is a kind of disconnection between the way the economy is functioning and the perceptions of Albertans about certain practices in the state of democracy."

A majority of respondents indicated big business and the media have too much influence on the provincial government while other lobby groups – such as unions, environmental groups and women's groups – do not. And half agreed with the statement, "The Alberta government hides a lot of information from the people of the province."

Despite government criticism of protests, six out of 10 Albertans believe protest groups "play an important role in democracy." Four out of five Albertans would like to see limits on election campaign spending, and about half agree with direct voting on political issues through referendums, as well as proportional representation and provisions for recalling elected members of the Legislature.

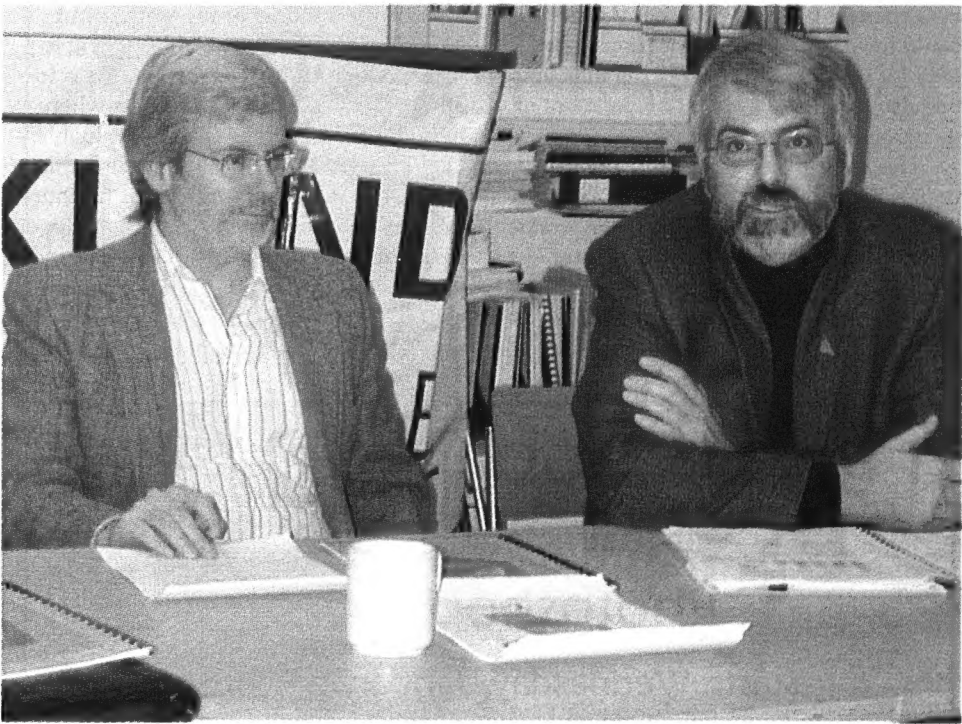
Less surprisingly, the report also found that a majority of Albertans feel the province's environment and education and health care systems are not in a healthy state, said Dr. Harvey Krahn, who co-authored the study along with Dr. William Johnston, both of the U of A's sociology department.

"We are conscious in the province of the great deal of anxiety and worry Albertans have about the education and health care system...You can see that democracy is in the same ball park," said Krahn.

Although people who tend to vote Progressive Conservative were more likely

"The striking thing in these results, however, is that there is a kind of disconnection between the way the economy is functioning and the perceptions of Albertans about certain practices in the state of democracy."

– Dr. Trevor Harrison



Dr. Trevor Harrison and Dr. Harvey Krahn.

to view democracy as healthy (57 per cent), none of four groups identified (including New Democrat and Liberal supporters and those who are non-partisan) sees democracy as being "particularly healthy."

Harrison insists the report is not meant to be an attack on specific parties or politicians but rather, a barometer for how people in Alberta regard their political system.

"The report provides some answers

and some clues, but as much as anything it opens up the terrain for a full discussion on the state of democracy and how we might address some genuine concerns of Albertans," he said.

"Sometimes (democracy) can be very taken for granted, and it means people don't explore or consider the way attitudes or orientations have changed," said Johnston. ■

Diet dictates infant health

Killam professor is a world leader in diet and health

By Stephen Osadetz

When a baby is born, it has virtually no immune system whatsoever in its intestine. Only after an infant has ingested food (and the bacteria that food helps promote in the intestine) will it begin to produce the defenses necessary for survival. In a very real sense, as the adage says, a baby's immune system "is determined by what it eats".

It's this fact that makes babies a special case of concern for Dr. Catherine Field, a dietitian who, in winning one of the U of A's eight annual Killam Professorships this year, has distinguished herself as one of the school's most outstanding professors.

"Babies are fascinating," she says, "because when they're born, they have very different immune systems than adults. I like to get right where the action is in my research, and that's where the diet first contacts – the gastrointestinal tract."

One of the problems Field faces, for instance, is to try to figure out what nutrients could be put into infants' early diets, say in infant formula or in weaning diets such as infant cereals. In the case of infant cereals, these might be modified to decrease the risk of *E. coli* infections. Though not the deadly strain of *E. coli* that was involved in the Walkerton outbreak, the kind Field works on is no less serious for infants, because it causes diarrhea. Here in North America, it isn't usually a life threatening problem, because if a baby gets diarrhea, they are hospitalized and rehydrated. Worldwide, however, it is one of the major causes of infant death, because babies in developing countries don't necessarily have access to the same medical care they do here and their environment poses a greater risk of exposure to these potentially life threatening bacteria.

To complicate the problem, changing the nutrients in these infant cereals could have all sorts of different effects on a baby's immune system. For instance, changing the dietary fibres that a baby consumes could change the bacterial population, or microflora, that live in its gut. Alternatively, the microflora could metabolize fibre to make short-chain fatty acids, which help to develop both the immune system and the cells of the intestine. Or, nutrients called betaglucons, which are found in oats and barley, can turn on the immune system as well. In any case, whatever changes are made to a baby's diet could have enormous implications, not only for its ability to resist *E. coli* infection, but also for the long-term development of its immune system.

This is the overarching theme that unifies Field's research: the foods you eat influence how your immune system works, and changing your diet may help you prevent or fight disease. What makes this approach noteworthy is that it straddles the disciplines of nutrition and immunology.

Strangely, though this would seem like an approach that is ripe for researchers to use, very few people are experts in both areas.

Field, for instance, is one of only three people working in both areas in Canada. Globally, only about 30 people specialize in bringing nutrition and immunology together in their research. "We're a very small, very focused program," Field says, "and you hope anybody you train [in graduate school] will get a faculty position, because there just aren't that many of us."

Field's involvement in this unusual discipline is largely a product of her education. After doing her undergraduate work in dietetics and working in the field for a couple of years, Field decided what she really wanted to do was research. But in the 1980s, dietitians usually didn't run research programs, so she went back to school to do graduate and then postdoctoral work in immunology.

It was during her postdoc that Field became interested in the problem that she has focused on for more than 10 years. Though type 1 diabetes is a very complex disease, which all sorts of factors can increase or decrease a person's risk of acquiring, it seems clear that early diet plays an important role in determining whether someone gets the disease or not. In this form of the disease, people stop producing insulin because certain cells in the pancreas are destroyed by their autoimmune system. Interestingly for Field, it seems that some component of breast milk actually reduces the risk of diabetes by suppressing the autoimmune tendency towards diabetes.

By working on special, diabetes-prone rats, Field says, "lots of researchers have shown that as long as you feed them the right diet early in life, you can reduce the incidence of diabetes very clearly, from 60 to 10 per cent. ... We're trying to figure out what it is about early diet that causes this decrease, and it's something we've been chasing for a very long time."

The third major focus of Field's research takes her out of the realm of infant diets and into that of cancer research. "It's quite well established," Field says, "that if you feed the two major fatty acids found in fish oil to animals, you can prevent almost all tumours."

But to truly see the benefit of this knowledge not only in prevention, but in clinical applications, Field is trying to figure out just how these fatty acids actually prevent cancer. Again, this is where her novel approach has proved valuable: "People have basically been feeding this to cancer patients and looking at tumour growth, but they haven't put what happens to the tumour together with the immune system," Field says. "But if the tumour grows, it's likely in part due to it suppressing the immune system of the host." Her



Dr. Catherine Field is one of a very few researchers who combine expertise in nutrition and immunology.

hope, then, is to discover just how these fatty acids from fish oil prevent cancer's immunosuppressive action.

The ironic thing about this prevention in our animal models is that it may not take a lot of these polyunsaturated fatty acids to do the job of preventing breast tumours – Field gives her animals the purified long chain fatty acids early in life and this prevents or reduces mammary tumour growth. This is one of the cases, albeit a small but significant one, where her knowledge as a dietitian has changed what she chooses to eat. Field, though, insists that her diet isn't severely affected by her knowledge as a dietitian. "Certainly, I'm very passionate about the things I do research on, and I'm aware of what I eat, but I'm human and I like food, so my approach to food doesn't change that much," she says.

"Actually, my pet peeve is that everybody thinks that diet is the problem for many of our chronic diseases. We automatically say that over-eating and fast food companies super sizing our meals is the cause (of problems such as obesity). Yes we eat more than we need but the problem is our needs are very low because we are not active enough to deserve these larger portions. The problem is that our lives are too sedentary for what we eat," she says.

This kind of outspoken public-health advocacy is, Field jokes, the dietitian in her speaking, rather than the researcher. Even though Field is always deeply involved in her academic research, she keeps ties both to her roots and the community of dietitians through her volunteer work. Even only a partial list of her work in the community sounds like a fulltime job, besides her work in academia. Currently, Field is

chair of the National Nutrition Committee for the Canadian Diabetes Association. Also, she helped to establish the College of Dietitians of Alberta as a regulated school, and was a founding member of the Canadian Society of Clinical Nutrition.

In addition to all her volunteer work, she has given more than 100 presentations both nationally and internationally, has written over 60 refereed papers, and is always rated among the best teachers in the department of agriculture, food and nutritional science by her students. Her teaching success is a special point of pride for Field; she teaches the entry-level nutrition class, which is the largest and most popular class that the department offers. Since Field started teaching the class, for which she developed her own CD-ROM textbook and distance-learning option, the class size has quadrupled. "I think Nutrition 100 is a basic life skill, and it should be required of all students on campus for basic health. If (the campus administrators) actually want a healthy campus, they should provide the tools for students to be healthy," she says.

For her own health, Field has managed to take at least one week off for each of the last four years to go with her husband to the small island of Grenada in the Caribbean. There, she can take some time off for herself by having a jog on the beach or going snorkeling or sailing. But even when she's on vacation, she's working. Field goes to Grenada to teach at St. George's, the famous medical school at the centre of the United States' 1983 invasion of the island. While there, she teaches a couple of hours every day with no salary, though the position does pay her expenses for the trip. "What can I say?" she says. "Killam professors are workaholics." ■

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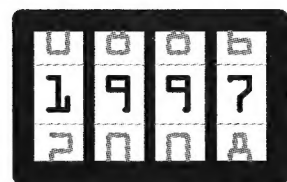
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CAMPUS CAMPAIGN



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Due to the overwhelming response from staff and faculty to support our students, the Campus Campaign has been extended until January 31st! Make your gift or pledge before January 31st to be invited to the Campus Campaign Celebration, and become eligible for 'Donor Door Prizes'! Date to be announced shortly...

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talks & events

Submit talks and events to Cora Doucette by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings will no longer accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/ualberta/L2.cfm?c=10>**

UNTIL JAN 17 2004

Department of Art and Design Duncan Johnson. This exhibition has been extended to January 17, 2004. This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Painting. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Location: Fine Arts Building Gallery, rm. 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 112 street and 89 avenue, University of Alberta campus.

Department of Art and Design Cynthia Gardiner: go a progress... This exhibition has been extended from January 17, 2004. Go a Progress... is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Painting. Regular Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Location: Fine Arts Building Gallery, rm. 1-1 Fine Arts Building, 112 street and 89 avenue, University of Alberta campus.

JAN 9 2004

Department of Music Faculty & Friends. Lidia Khaner, oboe; Alycia Au, violin; Aaron Au, viola; Tanya Prochazka, cello. Music for Oboe and String Trio featuring JC Bach, EJ Moeran, Britten, Mozart and Martinu. Convocation Hall, Arts Building. Admission: \$10/student/senior, \$15/adult. 8:00 p.m. For information, please call the Department of Music at 492-0601.

Centre for Health Promotion Studies Centre for Health Promotion Studies: Research Seminar Series. Becky Freeman, BSc. Program Consultant, Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. "Seminar Series: Counter Spin: The Marketing of Tobacco to Young Adult Albertans." Time: 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Location: 3-26 Corbett Hall. Website: www.chps.ualberta.ca

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Grand Rounds. Guest Speaker: Dr Larry Lynd, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Evaluations of Medicines, St Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, ON "Taking Calculated Risks: Advances in Risk Benefit Evaluation Using Probabilistic Simulation Methods." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12:00 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Website: www.phs.ualberta.ca

JAN 11 2004

Department of Music Faculty Recital "Piano Music For Four Hands." Roger Admiral with Jeremy Spurgeon. Works by Kurtág, Mozart, Schubert and Bizet. Admission: \$5/student/senior, \$10/adult. Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. 3:00 p.m.

JAN 12 2004

Cardiovascular Research Group Seminar Series Visiting Speaker: Dr. Lorne Golub, Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Oral Biology and Pathology, SUNY, Stony Brook, NY. Title: Host modulation properties of tetracyclines: medical and dental therapeutic implications. 4:00 p.m. Location: 9.68 Medical Sciences Building.

JAN 13 2004

Nutrition and Metabolism Research Group Obesity and Cancer. Visiting Speaker Seminar by Dr. Rowan Chlebowski, Harbor-UCLA Research and Education Institute. Location: Classroom F (2J4.02) WMC. Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

JAN 14 2004

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Grand Rounds. Guest Speaker: Dr John Cowell, Chief Executive Officer, Health Services Utilization and Outcomes Commission "The Health Services Utilization and Outcomes Commission Representing the Pulse of Albertans." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12:00 Noon to 12:50 p.m. Website: www.phs.ualberta.ca

JAN 15 2004

AFNS Seminar Series AFNS Seminar Series - Charting the Future of Agriculture. Past, Present and Future of Functional Foods Time: 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Speaker: Roland Gahler (FICN) Chairman, Owner Factors Group of Nutritional Companies Inc. Vancouver, BC. Venue: Timms Centre for the Arts Auditorium - 1st Floor 97 Ave - 112 Street University of Alberta Edmonton, AB For more information please contact: Sharon Katzeff Tel (780) 492-0379 or e-mail: sharon.katzeff@ualberta.ca Refreshments and Cash Bar: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. This presentation is open to the public. Location: Timms Centre for the Arts, Auditorium - 1st Floor

David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies Dr. Debra Russell, Chair, David Peikoff Chair of Deafness Studies. "Impact of the Language Planning Toward Bilingual Deaf Community in

Canada." This free public research lecture will be given by Patrick Boudreault, California State University. Deaf Studies Department, on Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in 2-115 Ed. N. Education Building. This lecture will be based on his experience as a Deaf bilingual and bicultural member of ASL and LSQ communities, and the analysis of the political situation of the Deaf communities in Canada. The presentation will explore how the past political and linguistics conflicts, and the implementation of linguistic laws by the hearing majority has shaped the dynamics of the ASL and LSQ Deaf communities. Sign language interpretation and Real-Time Captioning provided. For further information, contact Dr. Debra Russell at debra.russell@ualberta.ca or 492-1156. Location: 2-115 Education North, Education Bldg. Website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/edpsychology/wccsd.cfm>

JAN 16 2004

Department of Music Faculty and Friends Kyoko Hashimoto, piano with Jacques Després, piano; Trevor Brandenburg, percussion; Darren Salyn, percussion; Olivier Messiaen Three Preludes; Dmitri Shostakovich Ten Preludes from Opus 34; Howard Bashaw Five Preludes from Book One; Béla Bartók Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion. Admission: \$10/student/senior, \$15/adult. Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. 8:00 p.m.

John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre Health Ethics Seminars. Title: Non-directive Genetic Counselling and the "New Eugenics" Brendan Leier, PhD Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Alberta Visiting Assistant Professor, St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta. Time: 12-1. For more information please call 492-6676. Location: 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre. Website: www.ualberta.ca/bioethics

JAN 17 2004

Department of Music Faculty Recital, Tanya Prochazka, cello, Roger Admiral, piano, featuring Bach Suite Number Four in E-Flat Major Bloch Schelomo Prokofiev Sinfonia Concertante, Opus 125. Admission: \$5/student, \$10/adult. 8:00 p.m. Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta. For information, please call the Department of Music at 492-0601.

JAN 19 2004

Academic Technologies for Learning Active Learning, Part I. "Easy Active Learning Strategies to Incorporate in Traditionally Taught Courses." Research suggests that active learning models enhance cognitive growth and are superior in student performance outcomes. This suggested shift in teaching styles, however, is a difficult transition for faculty to make as they largely teach the same way they were taught. This workshop will outline easy, low-preparation activities that can be incorporated within a traditionally taught lecture-based course. Instructor: Ellen Whybrow Location: TELUS 134. Time: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free, but register at <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca> Website: <http://www.atl.ualberta.ca/>

JAN 20 - FEB 24 2004

Student Counselling Services Making it work...Better! (Improving intimate relationships). A five-week course on improving intimate relationships. Both individuals and couples interested in strengthening their romantic relationships are invited to join this five-session workshop. Together we will wonder about communication, how to balance "me" and "us", and other topics of interest to group members. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Starts January 20th and ends on February 24th. Register by January 16th, 2004. Phone 492-5205 or drop by to sign up. Location: 2-600 SUB. Website: www.ualberta.ca/~uscs

JAN 21 2004

Department of Public Health Sciences PHS Grand Rounds. Dr Ollie Triska, Assistant Professor "Physicians' Perceptions of Integrated Health Delivery in Two Western Canadian Health Regions." Location: Room 2-117, Clinical Sciences Building. 12:00 Noon - 12:50 p.m. Website: www.phs.ualberta.ca

JAN 22 2004

John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre Dr. Nancy Olivieri, University of Toronto will be presenting "The Academic Researcher and Corporate Funding." Everyone Welcome. For more information call 492-6676. Time: 5:00 p.m. Location: Room 227 Medical Sciences Building. Website: www.ualberta.ca/bioethics

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Céline Galipeau
International Correspondent for CBC

Lecture:
« Foreign Correspondent: A
Canadian Witnessing the World »

Date: Wednesday, January 21st, 2004

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Faculté Saint-Jean, Auditorium, Room 108

8406 rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (91st Street) Edmonton

This conference is part of the Louis Desrochers Lecture Series in Canadian Studies.

Free Admission. Please reserve your seat with Diane Leblanc
at 465-8716 or by e-mail: diane.leblanc@ualberta.ca



Lionel E. McLeod Health Research Scholarship Winner



The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) is pleased to announce that Talib Rajwani is the recipient of the 2003 Lionel E. McLeod Health Research Scholarship. The award honours Dr. Lionel McLeod, the founding President of AHFMR.

Mr. Rajwani is currently pursuing an MD-PhD in Medical Sciences in the Department of Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging at the University of Alberta. He has received numerous awards and scholarships during his academic career, including an Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Leaders of Tomorrow award, the award for top poster presentation at the Society for Pediatric Radiology

2003 meeting, and for top oral presentation at the Canadian Orthopedic Association 2002 meeting. Mr. Rajwani's research focuses on the causes of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, a curvature of the spine that affects about 3% of school aged children. He is creating a model for scoliosis research that is based on the integration of human, animal and computer-based studies. Mr. Rajwani is specifically interested in the uneven development of two growth plates in the spine the neurocentral junctions and the role these growth plates may play in the development of scoliosis. More knowledge in this area could lead to earlier and more preventative treatments for the disease.

The Lionel E. McLeod Health Research Scholarship is given annually to an outstanding student at the University of Alberta, Calgary, or British Columbia for research related to human health.

Dr. McLeod was the Head of Endocrinology at the University of Alberta, Dean of Medicine at the University of Calgary, President of AHFMR from 1981-1990, and President and Chief Executive Officer of the University Hospital, Vancouver.

AHFMR provides up to \$100,000 in matching donations to the Lionel E. McLeod Health Research Scholarship Fund. For more information on how to donate, please call AHFMR at (780) 423-5727.



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Environmental Research and Studies Centre
Climate Change: Adaptation, Impacts and Vulnerabilities. Dr. Suzanne Bayley, Biological Sciences, UofA, "Alberta Wetlands Under Threat." Open Lecture, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Location: Dentistry Pharmacy 2022. Website: www.ualberta.ca/ERSC/es.htm

JAN 28 - MAR 24 2004

Student Counselling Services Social Anxiety &

notices

Please send notices attention Folio, 6th floor General Services Building, University of Alberta, T6G 2H1 or e-mail publicaffairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received by 3 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication.

EFF - UNIVERSITY TEACHING RESEARCH FUND APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of applications to the EFF - University Teaching Research Fund is February 15. This fund was established to encourage and support research on teaching and learning. The primary purpose of this fund is to enhance the level and quality of teaching research and curricula development in the University. Funding priorities include research projects that have the potential of contributing to the increased effectiveness of university teaching, learning, and curricula development.

Application forms are available from the Office of the Vice-Provost, 2-10 University Hall, phone: 492-1503; or from our website

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/provost/AwardsFunding.cfm>

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FUND (IPF)

The International Partnership Fund (IPF) was established to support University of Alberta faculty and staff participating in exchange activities with the university's many partner institutions around the world. The IPF aims to facilitate projects that will help develop sustainable relationships between the University of Alberta and partner institutions. The funds may be used for travel by either the U of A staff member or a visitor from the partner institution for support of the development of activities with the partner, short-term visits for joint research collaboration, or other worthwhile academic purposes.

Support from the IPF will ideally complement support from the applicant's faculty or department, and the institution to which they propose to go.

Note: The IPF only applies to those institutions with which the U of Alberta has formal agreement.

Guidelines, application forms and list of partner institutions may be obtained from the University of Alberta International website at: <http://www.international.ualberta.ca/>

or by calling the International Partnership Fund secretary at 492-5840.

Application deadline: Monday, February 2, 2004.

2004-2005 KILLAM ANNUAL PROFESSORSHIPS

Applications for the 2004-2005 Killam Annual Professorships are now available. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2004-2005 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior university administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one Faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 prize and a commemorative scroll. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be substantial contributions to the community beyond the University, as evidenced by community involvement directly linked to the applicant's university responsibilities and activities.

Awards are tenable for 12 months commencing July 1, 2004. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 3-7 University Hall, by 4:30 p.m., Friday February 27, 2004. The awardees shall be announced by early May and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in the autumn of 2004.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpresearch/> Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 492-8342 or email: annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

Shyness Group. Do you feel ANXIOUS when you are: Public speaking, meeting strangers, eating in public places, talking to people in authority, participating in class or small groups, speaking to members of the opposite sex or looking at people you don't know very well in the eyes? If so, join our Social Anxiety & Shyness Group. 8 Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Starts January 28th, register by January 23rd. Phone 492-5205 or drop by to sign up! Location: 2-600 SUB. Website: www.ualberta.ca/~uscs

RUTHERFORD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

The GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) announces to the university community that nominations are now being sought for the annual Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. At least one award, but not more than five, is given annually.

The purpose of the Rutherford Award is to recognize excellent teaching, to publicize such excellence to the university and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta.

Nominations are made by faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those faculties. Nominations should be made through a faculty committee and submitted by the faculty to the secretary of UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone who needs assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms. Bente Roed, Director, University Teaching Services, 215 Central Academic Building (492-2826). The deadline for receipt of award nominations is Friday, February 27, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. In most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures.

Award recipients are publicly recognized at a special reception, at Convocation, and at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. They also receive a memento and a cash prize of \$3,000. The prize is awarded to the recipients as a cheque.

WILLIAM HARDY ALEXANDER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SESSIONAL TEACHING

The University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) announces to the university community that nominations are now being sought for the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Sessional Teaching. A maximum of two awards is given annually.

The purpose of the William Hardy Alexander Award is to recognize excellent teaching by sessional academic staff, to publicize such excellence to the university and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta.

Nominations are made by faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those faculties. Nominations should be made through a faculty committee and submitted by the faculty to the secretary of UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone who needs assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms. Bente Roed, Director, University Teaching Services, 215 Central Academic Building (492-2826). The deadline for receipt of award nominations is Friday, February 27, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. In most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures.

Award recipients are publicly recognized at a special reception, at Convocation, and at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. They also receive a memento and a cash prize of \$3,000. The prize is awarded to the recipients as a cheque.

COST OF DNA SYNTHESIS REDUCED:

Effective October 1, 2003 the department of Biochemistry DNA Core Laboratory reduced prices on their DNA synthesis service. For further information please visit the Biochemistry website at www.biochem.ualberta.ca and the DNA Synthesis and Sequencing quick link.

EFF - FSIDA (FUND FOR SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES)

Application Deadline

The deadline for receipt of applications to the EFF - FSIDA is 4:30 p.m., January 15, 2004. The next competition deadline dates are April 15, 2004 and October 15, 2004.

This Fund exists to enable staff and graduate students (normally PhD candidates) of the University of Alberta to participate in research and in the international transfer of knowledge and expertise through partnerships in developing countries.

Applications and guidelines are available on the University of Alberta International website www.international.ualberta.ca under "International

Cooperation" and "Funding Opportunities" or from the FSIDA Secretary at University of Alberta International, 1204 College Plaza, 8215-112 Street, telephone 492-6440.

GSA AWARDS APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

Nominate someone you know for a GSA Award!

Nomination forms for the GSA Awards are now available online at the GSA website at www.ualberta.ca/gsa. Each year the GSA recognizes outstanding achievements and individuals at the Annual GSA Awards Night. There are eight

different GSA Awards listed below. Check them out and nominate someone you think has made a difference in your life or the life of others or is just outstanding. The nomination deadline for all the awards is January 30, 2004.

The eight awards are: Academic Staff Award; Graduate Student Teaching Award; Distinguished Alumnus Award; Non-Academic Staff Award; Graduate Student Service Award; Martha Piper Award for Communications Excellence; Distinguished Benefactor Award; Excellence for Graduate Student Supervision Award.

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Faculty of Science University of Alberta

Announcement

Faculty of Science Research Award

We are seeking nominations for the Faculty's most promising young scientists for this annual award, which recognizes outstanding research achievement. Nominees must have obtained their doctorates in 1992 or later.

Deadline: January 15, 2004

For details of eligibility and conditions, please contact:

Dr. Bill Samuel

Associate Dean (Research)

E-mail: bill.samuel@ualberta.ca

(780) 492-3169

Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching

We are seeking nominations from students and departments in the Faculty of Science for this annual award for individuals with outstanding qualities in undergraduate teaching.

Deadline: January 23, 2004

For details of eligibility and conditions, please contact:

Dr. W.J. Page

Associate Dean

E-mail: bill.page@ualberta.ca

(780) 492-9452

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA UNITED WAY 2003 CAMPAIGN FINAL REPORT

Many thanks

To our United Way Committee members, all our staff, students, retirees and on-campus businesses as well as to all the prize donors and sponsors.

The **2003 United Way Campaign** was the most successful in the history of the University's Association with the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region.

GOAL: \$400,000 DOLLARS RAISED TOTAL: \$456,405

GOAL: 1,200 DONORS TOTAL: 1,078

GOAL: 200 LEADERS OF THE WAY TOTAL: 171

GOAL: 50 CAMPUS LEADERS TOTAL: 69



Congratulations to **Debra Elliot, Linguistics** our Early Bird winner of the weekend stay at the Kananaskis Mountain Lodge and **Kimberley Christopher, Biological Sciences**, the Final Prize winner of the \$1,000 travel voucher sponsored by Flight Centre.



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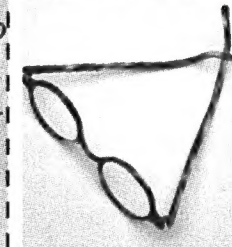
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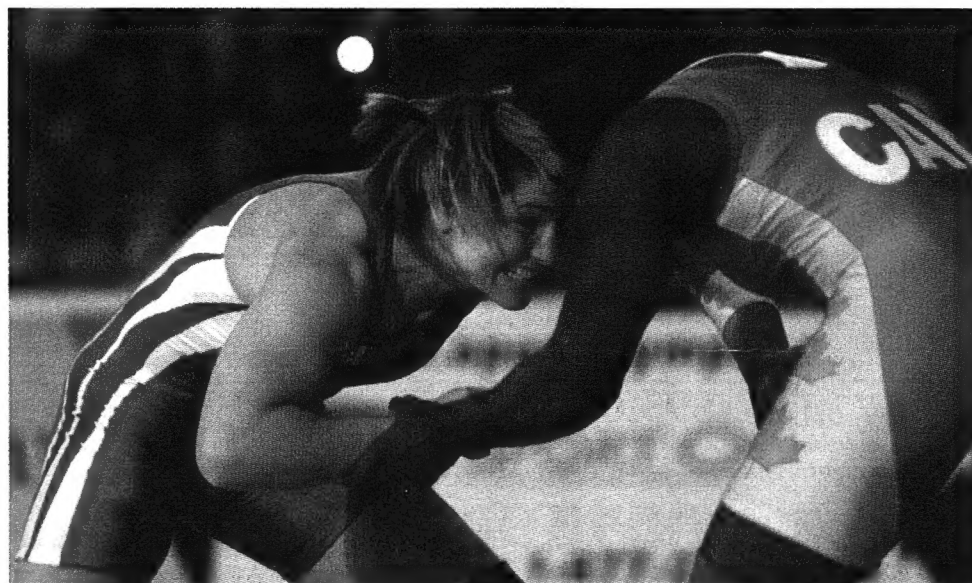
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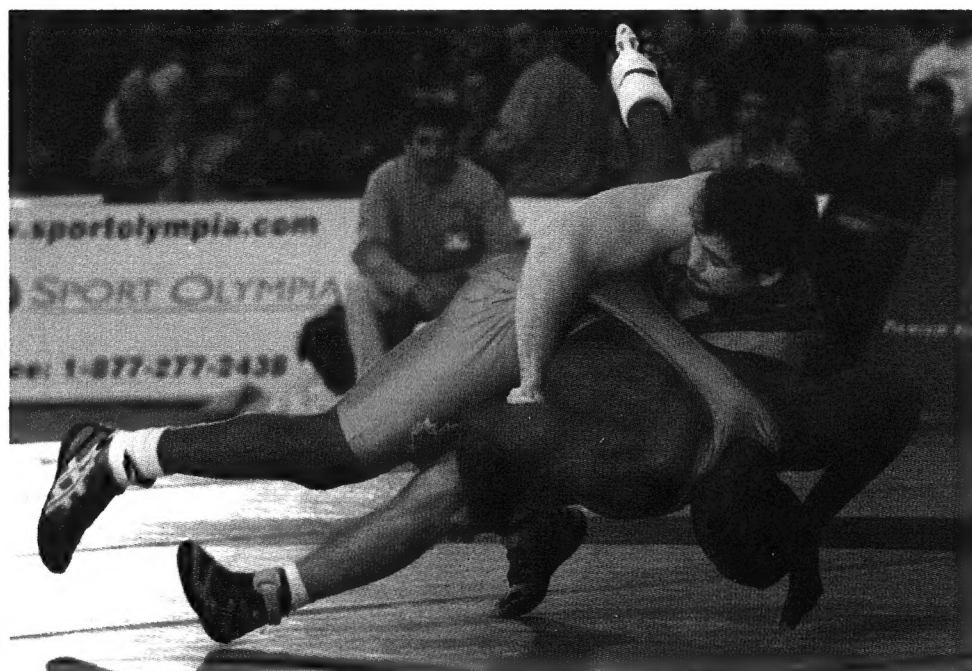
GETTING A GRIP ON ATHENS

Wrestling has a mortal lock on Christine Nordhagen

By Richard Cairney



Christine Nordhagen takes on Ohenewa Akuffo during Olympic team trials Dec. 14. Nordhagen, a U of A alumna, qualified for the Canadian Women's Olympic wrestling team and hopes to compete in Athens this summer. Student Colby Bell was on top of things (below) but the former Olympian failed to qualify for the national team.



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When Christine Nordhagen was working towards an education degree at the University of Alberta in 1991, she decided to take a wrestling class to meet her physical education minor requirements.

Today, she's a six-time national women's wrestling champion, has just qualified for Canada's Olympic women's wrestling team and has her eyes set on competing at the Summer Olympics in Athens this year.

This summer marks the first time women's wrestling will be an Olympic event, and Nordhagen plans on being there when history is made.

"It's a good thing for me - I'm glad because I'm 32 and I don't think I'll be wrestling five years from now," she said. "There is going to be a point where there are other things I want to do in my life and sports, especially wrestling, can be hard on your body."

That may be the case but for the time being, Nordhagen is focused on making her next move: she will travel to Tunisia in March and compete in a women's wrestling tournament there in order to qualify for Athens.

Growing up in the northern Alberta hamlet of Valhalla Centre, Nordhagen was always a good wrestler, even as a child.

"It's a natural thing for kids to do and it was just something I was good at," she explained. "I just had a good natural awareness of how to transfer my weight and use leverage."

When she joined up for the wrestling class at the U of A, as the only woman, she began to learn techniques and strategies and managed to win a match against one of her male classmates.

Nordhagen joined a local wrestling club - it was the first year women were recruited into wrestling clubs nationally - and the following year the U of A began its own women's wrestling program.

U of A wrestlers have earned a solid reputation across the country. Golden Bear wrestler Colby Bell competed in the Olympics in Atlanta, but failed to qualify for the national team during Olympic trials held here in December.

Golden Bears' wrestling coach Vang Ioannides said the trials weren't the best the U of A has attended.

"In many ways it was disappointing - we didn't place a person on the Olympic team for the first time in the last three Olympics," he said. "Colby was on the team in 1996 and competed in Atlanta and he was on the team in 2000."

But there are some bright spots on both

the men's and women's teams, he added, singling out Heidi Kulak and Joe Slobodian as strong athletes.

Ioannides, who has coached Nordhagen, is quick to point out that the U of A is widely regarded as playing a pivotal role in raising the profile of women's wrestling to a level that Olympic organizers included it in this summer's Games.

"The U of A has played a huge part in the advancement of women's wrestling, and a person like Christine is a perfect example of that," he said. "And we hosted the world university wrestling championships in 2002 and insisted on having a women's wrestling component, and many people think that was the catalyst that forced the Olympic organizers to add it to the Games."

The U of A hosts men and women wrestlers from across the country at the U of A Varsity Open and the Golden Bear Invitational Jan. 10 and 11 in the Butterdome. Admission is free. ■

